

EPIS⁺LE



*St. Paul's Lutheran
The Church On The Hill*

Volume 66 No. 5

May - 2022

Pastor's Message

*"Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him."
1 Corinthians 7:17a*

As we come to the end of winter and spring, many of our children come to the end of years of study and education. It is a time to consider next moves and what journey they will begin in search of higher education or employment to care for themselves, their families, and those who are in need of their help.

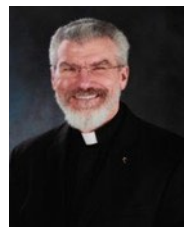
Paul tells the Corinthians to "lead the life that the Lord has assigned." These young men and women will discover a vocation that suits their talents and when they find the right one, even if it takes a few changes, they will know it is correct for them. They may not know it now, but in time they may very well see the hand of God working in their lives to direct them to where their talents are needed.

God is working in them now and no one else can make that decision for them. Some may become teachers helping and nurturing other children to fulfil their roles in life. Others may become doctors or nurses caring for the sick and restoring their health and lives by the power God in Jesus' name. A few may hear God's call to become Pastors caring for the spiritual health and wellbeing of Christians throughout the world. As well as seeking out those who are not Christian and may not even know what God has done for them through the work of his Son on the cross.

But there is another group of very special people who will hear a different call, one that is not obtained through high education but through the sweat of their brow. These fortunate ones will rise up to care for the world by doing what it takes to feed them and make sure they get the things they need in a timely manner. They are the farmers and ranchers who will raise crops in the fields, and cattle, chickens, hogs, and every type of animal. They will work long hard days in every type of weather. When they are finished, they will call in truck drivers to drive day and night to get those crops and animals to the places where hungry people can get them. There will also be factory workers making farm machines, trucks, fertilizer, and clothes.

Every job, no matter what it may be contributes to the care of God's people. Every job is important and each one relies on another to keep the world going. God is calling you to do the one thing needed to care for your neighbor, your brother and sisters in Christ. Whatever it is you are doing, you are a blessing to someone, and that blessings comes from God through you.

Peace to you in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
<i>APRIL 03</i>	<i>87 / 118</i>	<i>\$4,529.00</i>
<i>APRIL 10</i>	<i>112 / 148</i>	<i>\$3,278.30</i>
<i>APRIL 17</i>	<i>168 / 189</i>	<i>\$4,138.25</i>
<i>APRIL 24</i>	<i>52 / 151</i>	<i>\$1,716.00</i>

In Addition:

Lenten Envelopes to ELCA World Hunger - \$1541.00

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday offering for Heisinger Bluffs Benevolence Fund - \$649.00

Old Sound Equipment: Dan Tschirgi

After upgrading to our new audio/video system, we have several pieces of equipment that we no longer use. These items, listed below, are being offered to St. Paul's members via a process of sealed bids.

If you are interested, please contact Dan Tschirgi with your bid no later than May 15, 2022 and he will contact the winning bidders to pick up the equipment.

Estimated values based on internet search:

Mixer – Eurorack UB2442FX-PRO. \$100-150

Graphic Equalizer – Ultra Graph Pro 31 Band Model FBQ3102. \$100-200

Cassette Deck – Optimus SCT-88. \$25-50

CD Player – RCA 5 disc Model RP-80075RS. \$50-75

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Scott Grunden
- 3 Kathryn Linsenbardt
- 4 Shane Russell
- 7 Nancy Thompson
- 9 Zola Finch
- 10 Oliver Stoermer
- 12 Roger Thompson
- 15 Kim Tschirgi
- 19 Dave Boyce
- 19 Ruthann Woehrer
- 20 Macie Moeller
- 21 Lottie Tierney
- 23 Dawn James
- 23 Ruth Strobel
- 25 Anthony James
- 25 Marvin Bubach
- 25 Kendall Stubinger
- 28 Bill Gerth
- 28 Lester Linsenbardt
- 30 Doug Carel
- 30 Dana Moeller
- 31 Kiefer Freiner
- 31 Ryan Heidbreder



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Kent & Julie Nelson 1993
- 6 Denny & Lori Linhardt 2000
- 10 Kris & Laura Tuttle 2015
- 15 Gus & Jeannette Fischer 1960
- 16 Scott & Kelly Grunden 1992 **30 Years**
- 19 Chris & Elizabeth Russell 2001
- 22 Marshall & Julie Griffin 2009
- 23 Conor & Angela Tierney 2015
- 23 Dan & Kim Tschirgi 1987 **35 Years**
- 25 Colin & Ruthann Woehrer 1968
- 28 David & Karla Strobel 1977 **45 Years**
- 31 Bill & Erika Gerth 1960

Continued prayers for healing and comfort.

Curt Stubinger, Glenda Hake, Barbara Hickey, Gary Zumwalt, Vanessa Pyatt, Julie Carel, Donna Viles, and Jahanna Koestner



Thanks to our Central States Synod Bishop Susan Canda for joining us in worship and preaching the gospel on April 3, 2022.

Congregational Council Meeting, April 11, 2022
Respectfully submitted by Frank Pascoe

† A regular monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of St. Paul's Church met on April 11, 2022, at 6:08 pm. Present were members President Zola Finch, Frank Pascoe, Delores Vlach, Laurie Koestner, Mitchell Plochberger, Stacy Bubach, Jana Thompson, and Kathy Meller. Absent was member Dan Tschirgi. Also present was Pastor David Viles and Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe.

† The meeting opened with prayer and a devotion by Pastor Viles. Approval of the previously distributed March Council minutes was proposed by Jana Thompson, seconded by Mitchell Plochberger, and approved via voice vote.

† Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe presented a four page "Statement of Financial Position", which was reviewed and discussed by the members. Kay requested the Council give thought to who might sign church cheques when she is unavailable to do so.

† Pastor Viles presented a detailed report of his March/April activities to date. His mileage was minimal and needed no reimbursement. He attended nine different meetings of various church and community events; conducted six different personal visits with current members, new members, and our bishop, The Very Rev. Susan Candea. In addition, he conducted confirmation class, prepared bulletins, created hymn lists, updated our website and video services, and created and mailed the March Epistle. He presided over nine different services, three of which offered Holy Communion. His report was unanimously approved upon a motion by Laurie Koestner and seconded by Jana Thompson.

President Finch called upon the various Committee Chairpersons to present their monthly reports:

Evangelism: Chair Delores Vlach offered thanks to Jerry and Laurie Koestner and Jana and Harry Thompson for hosting the April 3d Fellowship Coffee. She praised their wonderful selection of treats. She thanked all members who have signed up to host the monthly fellowship events. All months have been filled. In addition, a May 22d fellowship event will celebrate graduation for our high school and college students. Delores reported on the success of the Annual Pancake Breakfast. Attendance was as high as ever reported, with some 212 persons attending. The net profit of the event was \$1,810.06. Delores thanked the over 40 volunteers who worked at the event, and all who attended to enjoy the food.

Technology: President Finch reported there is still a need for one additional member to assist with the upstairs sound board on Sundays. Dan Tschirgi will train a volunteer as soon as one is found. The chimes for pealing on Easter Sunday are ready for that event. Dan Tschirgi had suggested some enlargement of the blessing box in order to increase the availability of personal items. The Council members present discussed various ways this might be done.

Worship & Music: Chair Kathy Meller reported on the recent committee meeting where all praised the mid-week Lenten services and the music provided. She said that Palm Sunday went very well indeed with over 112 persons attending the service and with the baptism of Kinlee Jean Richart. Kathy reported that small groups and the choir will be singing at some of the upcoming Holy Week events. Maundy Thursday, April 14th will have Holy Communion. Good Friday, April 15th will have a Fellowship with Hot-Cross buns. Easter Sunday, April 17th, will have special music from the Freiner family. Zola Finch and Kathy will provide the instrumental music on these occasions. The Sunday of May 1st will have a representative from Mobility Worldwide based in Columbia, at St. Paul's to share their work providing mobility devices for the disabled all over the world. The Worship Committee chose hymns for May and Setting #8 will be the new setting after Pentecost [June 5th].

Parish Education: Chair Laurie Koestner reported on the planning for the Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. Some \$80.00 has been donated to provide the plastic eggs and treats for the children participating. A beginning time for placing the eggs for the hunt was discussed. It was suggested that eggs be placed at least by or prior to 9:30 that morning. The children will be let out to participate by age groups.

Church Improvement: Chair Mitchell Plochberger reported to the Council on multiple meetings his members have held. He thanked all who turned out for Workday. He discussed various bids his members have obtained to repair or replace doors and windows in the Church. The two front doors need repair or replacement. An estimate received is \$8,000 to repair each, or \$14,000 to replace them. Mitch's Committee has received a bid of \$22,133.00 to repair six doors and to also provide various types of hardware to prevent nefarious entry to doors or windows. The Council President proposed a Congregational meeting as required by the Constitution on Sunday May 1st. After Congregational approval, expenditures will proceed as the Church Improvement Committee suggests. This was agreed to by the Council members. Mitch also discussed with the Council the ongoing issues with the basement remodeling. The material to replace the ten windows a bid of \$4,623.00 was obtained. Mitch pointed out it was necessary to repair/replace the windows prior to any needed work on the basement walls. Laurie Koestner moved we go forward with the bid on the windows. This was seconded by Kathy Meller. Passed via unanimous verbal consent. Any work on motion detection devices will be postponed.

Stewardship & Finance: Chair Stacy Bubach reported no recent meeting.

Mutual Ministry: Chair Jana Thompson reported her Committee had recently met and continued looking at needed revisions to the Church Handbook for new members. She reported on her group's intention to expand awareness of the blessing box to area locations, including the Farmers Bank and others. Pastor Viles told the Council of the continued growing use of the box and its contents.

Old Business: The President thanked parishioner Becky Weber for preparing a list of area resources and organizations for helping the needy. The list is being typed and prepared for distribution by the church office Secretary.

New Business: There was none noted.

The Council meeting adjourned, and Pastor David led the members in the recitation of the Our Father.

Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

Eleven members of Margaret Circle gathered at the church on April 5th to enjoy an evening of fellowship, Bible study, and refreshments. Debbie Boyce was our hostess and she provided an assortment of delicious Easter-related snacks and brought along Pat Collins, her delightful mom, to join in the evening's activities. Erika led the evening's Bible study on "shalom", a Hebrew word meaning peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquility. In Israel, and in the United States, shalom is used both to greet people and to bid them farewell. As you read the Bible and come across the word "peace", it is likely a translation of "shalom" in its broadest sense.

Stewardship is an important aspect of Margaret Circle and takes several forms. We reach out to our college students with cheerful email messages and send holiday greeting cards to St. Paul's members and friends who are home-bound. Our members who are over the age of eighty receive birthday greetings in the mail. Our circle also supports students at Russellville's elementary school who receive food items for the week-end in their backpacks to which are added extra goodies such as a toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo, hand lotion, a comb, and at Christmas, a warm hat, mittens/gloves socks, and a scarf. Thank you, Donita, for your work on this important ministry.

Most of this month's offering was earmarked for Worldwide Mobility, a non-profit company located in Columbia, MO which builds "mobility" carts and ships them to countries where individuals have injuries which keep them from being able to move about independently. These carts often mean the difference between a person's ability to support themselves and their families, or being destitute. Gary Moreau, executive director of this amazing company, will visit St. Paul's on Sunday, May 1st, to tell us more about the program. He will have a mobility cart with him, giving our congregation the opportunity to learn more about this ministry. Margaret Circle's next meeting, the annual salad supper, will take place on Thursday, June 23rd at 6:00 PM at the home of Kay Pascoe. Ruth Stubinger will lead the Bible study. Please RSVP to Kay at 573-782-3478 or kfpf@tranquility.net. Shalom.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The weather was great for the April 12th Mobile Food Pantry in Russellville at the Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot. Thanks to the volunteers that helped serve 166 families with 473 people in those families. Some of the items given out were cookies, half and half, diced beets, ice cream, milk, tomato sauce, fresh produce (cabbage, lettuce and mushrooms), canisters of cleaning wipes and miscellaneous bags of food from the Cub Scouts. The Cub Scouts collected 780 pounds of food and \$30.00 that was sent to the Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri. The volunteers from St. Paul's Church were Rosemay Heidbreder and Gary Bunch. The next Mobile Food Pantry will be May 10th at 1:15 P.M.

Jr. Lutherans: Donita Stubinger



Jr. Lutherans met at Moreau Meat Market on Saturday, April 16, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. for a continental breakfast. Jason Plochberger led us in the opening prayer to enjoy breakfast. Seventeen children, along with parents and grandparents making 43, colored eggs, played and took pictures with the live Easter bunnies. After lots of picturing taking with the rabbits, the children gathered for a group picture.



Our next gathering will be held at St. Paul's in the Fellowship Hall where we will be making a Mother's Day bouquet for the children to present to their mothers on Sunday. All Jr. Lutherans will be called about this meeting which will be Saturday afternoon at 2:30 on May 7. Snacks will be furnished and they will take their surprises home to present to their mothers on Sunday morning.

Freundschaft Gruppe: Jeannette Fischer

Our gruppe met April 11 with 26 in attendance. Donita treated us with a delicious dinner of turkey, dressing, cranberries, and wonderful side dishes. She also added pumpkin pie. We all thought it was Thanksgiving. Our chores for the evening included pew pencils sharpened, silverware sorted, new pads for several chairs and our big job was to sort, pack and label all the quilts in preparation for shipment to Lutheran World Relief. Our gruppe will now be in recess until September.

STARS:

For our April meeting we enjoyed a wonderful fish and hush puppies lunch which Glen Stubinger fried up to perfection. Everyone else provided an assortment of side dishes and desserts. There were 27 in attendance. Misty Schroeder gave a very interesting presentation about Moreau Meats and we all learned something. They attempt to source their products within a 30 mile radius of their business and promote as many local farmers as possible. She brought lots of samples and examples of the meats they have available, including rabbit. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 4 and we will have representatives from Thrivent - Central Missouri Associates to present a program about the services they offer. If you plan to attend, please give Rose Strobel a call at 782-4553 by Sunday, May 1.

Midwest March for Life: Becky Weber

'We have differed as a nation' read the headline from Jefferson City's News and Tribune on April 21, 2022. Many people attended the Midwest March for Life event the day before. Pastor Jon Nelson, president of the Missouri Baptist Convention, prayed that the crowd, which swelled to about 2,000 before it marched down Capitol Avenue, would be a blessing to the Capitol and the men and women working within.

There were more than a dozen speakers that day. "We have waited a long time for the U.S. Supreme Court to take another look at its 1973 decision," said The Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight, bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City. "We waited for the court to acknowledge finally the fallacies underlying the logic of abortion and uphold the constitutional right to life for all human beings, no matter how small, no matter how young," McKnight said. "We have suffered as a nation in the wake of this landmark decision, as it has eroded the culture of life in our society and rejected the many blessings the choice for life secures for us as a people."

"The 1973 decision deceived many about the curse of abortion" he said, "And it qualified the value and dignity of human life. The horrific and cruel destruction of little 'somebodies' cries out to heaven and brings with it the curse of the breakdown of our social bonds." McKnight said. He went on to say, "It is never good never just, never charitable, never life-giving to treat an innocent human being as something to be discarded and thrown away. As a people, we must stand up for the weakest among us, to give hope and a helping hand to women tempted or coerced into choosing abortion." Another speaker, Kaylee Juergensmeyer, is an eighth grade student from St. Joseph Catholic school in Westphalia, Mo. Kaylee said "St. Joe's is a really good Catholic school, and it's taught me a lot about the Catholic faith. For the pro-life rally I've learned a lot of women don't give their child the choice to have its life."

"It seemed unfair" she went on to say, "because the parent had their right." She said she is reminded of a quote, by whom she was uncertain, who said every person who is pro-choice had the opportunity to be born. Yet they are not giving that opportunity to another baby. "I feel like that is a really true thing."

Please contact Becky Weber (573-338-4200) if you would like to work on issues of life for unborn children.

A Wonderful Baptismal Month

Kinlee Jean Richart was baptized on Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022. Her parents are Kara and Andrew Richart. The kids in the congregation came up to meet their new sister in Christ.



Cousins Ellie Kay Morgans, daughter of Tim and Heather Morgans & Gwenivere Anastasia Neenan, daughter of Max and Victoria Neenan were baptized on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022.



Gwenivere was wearing her Great Grandmother's (Nelda Linsenbardt Bubach) white baptismal gown. Nelda was born April 7, 1916 and baptized on April 28th, 1916. The gown was handmade by her mother, Flora Fluegel Linsenbardt, and is now 106 years old. She changed into a pink dress soon after the baptism.

Easter Sunday is always a blessed time.



There were 168 people of God attend the Easter Sunday service. 23 of them were children who came up for the Children's Sermon and participated with a jigsaw puzzle and hearing how Jesus makes us whole from the cross.



Our Choir also came up to sing "Christ Has Risen, Alleluia"

WELCA: Donita Stubinger

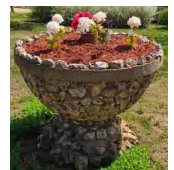
During our Lenten Drive, we donated to the Samaritan Center: 121 pounds of food and 26 pounds of Hygiene products for a total of 147 pounds. Thank you to all for making this possible from St. Paul's. A brief meeting was held on Sunday, April 24, 2022 following church worship service. We approved to give \$1,000.00 to World Wide Mobility Carts and \$100.00 to WELCA Mid-Mo Spring Cluster to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pymont, Mo. Discussions were also held about the Fellowship Breakfast to be held on May 1, 2022 by WELCA to raise funds for the World Wide Mobility Cart organization.

We are thankful for those who came out to work around the church.

On April 2nd, 15 members came out to clean up the church grounds in preparation of the approaching Easter service and all the events surrounding it. Surprisingly even the Pastor showed up to lend a hand. There were also coffee, juice, and treats to eat supplied by some of the best cooks at St. Paul's.

Audrey Bunch and Rosemary Heidbreder have been busy changing out artificial flowers in the Cemetery. I often hear remarks from people visiting or attending a burial that our cemetery is beautiful and well kept. A lot of that comes from the work of these two ladies who keep beautiful arrangements fresh each season or when needed.

Trish Russell keeps the artificial flowers looking great in the Church yard around the light pole, the large concrete planter, and other places. These flowers make our church area beautiful and fresh each season of the year.



Lester and Kathryn Linsenbardt keep our church looking fantastic but they also do so much more. They spend hours taking care of the flower arrangements down the hill by our church sign. They erect the wood pole cross in front of the church and drape it with purple or black cloth and then have it ready to be transformed on Easter Morning with spring flowers from our members. They haul in salt for our church water softener with a little help from Pastor.



Jeannette Fischer takes care of the flowerbed around the west utility pole and places mulch around the small trees next to the parking lot.



Devin Koestner updated the meditation area with new solar lights and trimmed the bushes.



Mike Kalaf sprayed for weeds in the playground and added mulch to make it look nice.

Sunday, May 22, 2022 Graduate Recognition

We will recognize Wyatt Prosch, Madalyn Benne, Natalie Benne, Laney Hager, and Abby Bubach on Sunday, May 22nd during our worship service. Afterward, there will be a reception in the basement hosted by Gina & Rich Prosch and Nicole & Andrew Benne. Please join in the celebration to honor these wonderful young adults.



Wyatt J. Prosch is graduating from the Jefferson City Home Educators. All are welcome to attend this event on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 2:00 pm. It will be held at the Concord Baptist Church in Jefferson City with a reception following in the Gym.



Madalyn Grace Benne is graduating from Cole County R-1 High School on Friday, May 13, 2022. All are welcome to come out and be with her on this special day.



Natalie Christine Benne is Graduating with her Masters in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Missouri State University, in Springfield, Missouri on May 20, 2022.



Laney Marie Hager graduates from Jefferson City High School on May 15, 2022. All are welcome to come out and watch her receive her diploma.



Abby Renee Bubach will graduate on May 14, 2022 at 10:00 am from Moberly Area Community College with an Associates of Applied Science degree and a major in Occupational Therapy Assistant. All are welcome to come out and support her as you are able.

Calendar of Events and Schedules

- May 1st**, Sunday: 10:15 am Fellowship Coffee hour.
May 3rd, Tuesday: Music and Worship choose hymns via email.
May 4th, Wednesday: 11:30 am STARS will meet for lunch and a presentation by Thrivent.
May 7th, Saturday: Jr. Lutherans will meet in the Fellowship Hall for Mother's Day crafts and snacks.
May 8th, Sunday: Mother's Day
May 9th, Monday: Church Council meeting at 6:00 pm in the youth room upstairs.
May 10th, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:30 p.m.
May 17th, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m.
May 18th, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry will meet at 5:00 pm in the church basement.
May 25th, Wednesday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.
May 29th, Sunday: Memorial Day Sunday

Bulletins are normally printed on Wednesdays.
 Pastor David normally plans Fridays as his day off.

Usher Schedule

May -01	Laurie Koestner	Stacy Bubach
May -08	Kathy Meller	Mitchell Plochberger
May -15	Jana Thompson	Dan Tschirgi
May -22	Delores Vlach	Frank Pascoe
May -29	Laurie Koestner	Stacy Bubach

Acolyte Schedule

May -01	Kara Freiner
May -08	Mattson Stoermer
May -15	Mackenzie Linnenbrink
May -22	Kiefer Freiner
May -29	Oliver Stoermer

Greeters Schedule

May -01	Audrey Bunch	Gary Elliott
May -08	Devin Koestner	Jerry Koestner
May -15	David Russell	Trish Russell
May -22	Frank Pascoe	Donald Weber
May -29	Audrey Bunch	Gary Elliott

Readers Schedule

May -01	Marlene Carlson
May -08	Michelle Collins
May -15	Bill Gerth
May -22	Erika Gerth
May -29	Delores Vlach

Song Leader

May -01	Kathy Meller
May -08	Dan Tschirgi
May -15	Dan Tschirgi
May -22	Cameron Freiner
May -29	Kathy Meller

Audio / Video Technician

May -01	Dan Tschirgi
May -08	Roger Pennell
May -15	Roger Pennell
May -22	Dan Tschirgi
May -29	Dan Tschirgi

Communion Assistants

May - 8	Trish Russell
May - 22	Kathryn Linsenbardt

Communionware for the Month

Jim and Cynthia Loesch

Altar Flowers for the Month

Diane Kalaf / Kathryn Linsenbardt

*** Communion Days noted in Yellow**